



The Washington Connection

Congresswoman **Candice Miller**

<http://candicemiller.house.gov>

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Congresswoman Miller Supports Passport Extension

Votes to ease requirements to protect travelers

Rep. Candice Miller recently voted in favor of an amendment to the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill that would extend the passport requirement for those traveling by land and sea to Canada and Mexico through June 1 of 2009 from January 2008.

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, passed in 2004, changed passport rules to require persons traveling from the U.S. to Canada and Mexico by land and sea to carry passports by January of 2007. Due to the overwhelming demand for passports, which has caused a serious backlog in issuing passports, many travelers have not able to get theirs in time, resulting in

widespread disruption in travel plans.

"This amendment addressed an issue of great urgency in border states like Michigan, where many people cross between the United States and Canada on a daily basis," Rep. Miller said. "These people cannot afford to have their jobs and travel plans disrupted simply because the government cannot process passport requests in timely fashion. We need to set a date that is fair to those who need to get across the border, and I



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Rep. Miller blasts Senate's CAFÉ Standard Increase

Rep. Miller made the following statement after the Senate passed an energy bill that called for an increase in CAFÉ standards, which will potentially cost the domestic auto industry billions of dollars and thousands of Michigan workers their jobs:

"The Senate passed energy bill is an affront to Michigan workers and companies. This bill would require automakers to raise fuel efficiency standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020, a more than 40% increase. If this bill were to become law it would devastate our domestic auto industry and throw countless auto workers

out of their jobs.

"It is difficult to understand the Senate's outright contempt for the industry and the people who work in it. Senator Majority Leader Harry Reid seems to even have a hard time understanding that his actions will have an adverse effect on average Americans who work in the industry or whose jobs are supported by the industry, or if he does he seems not to care.

"This legislation now comes to the House where Speaker Nancy Pelosi has been gearing up to pass similar legislation. I

have been proud to work with my Democratic Michigan colleague John Dingell and the rest of the Michigan delegation on bi-partisan legislation that will actually save energy and protect Michigan jobs. I hope that the other Democratic leadership understands that the auto companies are more than just giant corporate entities; they are also the people who work there and the families that depend on a healthy industry."

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Passport Extension (Continued...)

(Continued from page 1)

believe that June 2009 is fair.”

“I strongly support the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative and its goal of protecting our national security, but the current passport problem also has the potential to cause serious economic problems in addition to personal disruptions in people’s lives,” Miller continued. “Law-abiding citizens should not be punished for the government’s shortcomings.”

If this amendment becomes law, those crossing the borders into Mexico and Canada will still need a valid government-issued photo ID as well as a certified birth certificate.

PASSPORT RULE UPDATE:

The passport rules can be a little confusing, but here are the current requirements for travelers:

1) All persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling by air to the United States from all foreign countries must present a valid passport by September of 2007.

Initially travelers needed a passport by January of 2007, but the government recently relaxed passport restrictions through September 30, 2007 for those U.S. citizens traveling by air from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean or Bermuda, so they can enter the U.S. with either a valid, government-issued photo I.D., or proof of their passport application. Children under the age of

16 traveling with parents or legal guardians need only show proof of their passport application for entry.

2) All persons traveling from the U.S. to Canada and Mexico by land and sea must carry passports by January of 2008.

If you need any further information on passport requirements, you can visit Congresswoman Miller’s website at <http://candicemiller.house.gov>. Or you can call her district office in Shelby Township at 586-997-5010 to find out how her staff can assist with any questions or problems you may be having with your passport.

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Ballast Water Legislation Takes Major Step Forward

Passes out of Transportation Committee, will come to House floor for first time in over ten years

Rep. Candice Miller praised the passage in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee of several ballast water provisions contained in H.R. 2830, the FY08 Coast Guard Reauthorization Act. This is the first time in over ten years that legislation targeting ballast water and invasive species has been marked up in committee.

Many of the key provisions in this legislation have been incorporated from Miller’s own legislation, the Prevention of Aquatic Invasive Species Act, H.R. 889, which she introduced in February.

The bill ballast water management program provided in the bill requires:

- All vessels bound for US ports must exchange more than 200 miles from shore and in waters more than

200 meters deep. (included in H.R. 889)

- Discharged ballast water must meet a standard that is 100 times more stringent than the current standard agreed to by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). (included in H.R. 889)

- Vessels that report having “no ballast on board” must undertake ballast water exchange before entering a U.S. port

- Establishes a testing and evaluation program for potential ballast water treatment systems

- All vessels must to be outfitted with ballast water treatment systems by 2013

“I am extremely pleased that this bill incorporates much of the language that I included in my own legislation, the Prevention of Aquatic Invasive Species Act,”

Miller said. “I have long advocated that we adopt much more rigorous ballast water standards for vessels entering our Lakes, as they are the number one source for invasive species. These invasive species have been allowed to wreak havoc on our Lakes unchecked for far too long, and I am glad to see that my colleagues on the Transportation Committee agree with me that the federal government must step in and impose strict regulations before it is too late.

“This was a historic vote today and a major step forward in the fight against invasive species. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Transportation Committee to bringing this bill to the House floor for a vote as soon as possible.”

Detroit Free Press Article: Miller fights back when senator slams automakers

June 26, 2007

By TODD SPANGLER

FREE PRESS WASHINGTON STAFF

WASHINGTON – Michigan Congresswoman Candice Miller had some strong words for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid this morning, following the Nevada Democrat's comments on the need for a fuel efficiency bill Detroit's automakers say could devastate them.

Speaking on the House floor this morning, Miller, a Republican, said she was appalled when Reid asked senators to vote for the bill and said they should "speak for the American people, not for the three car companies that are closing plants and laying off people."

Miller said the more than one million people who work for Detroit's automakers are Americans, too.

"If Sen. Reid has his way, hundreds of thousands more may be facing the unemployment line," she said.

She also added: "Everyone knows that the highest producers of CO2 are electricity producers, but I didn't hear Sen. Reid volunteer to make the neon-blazing casinos in his home state of Nevada more energy efficient. How about regulate their consumption?"

Here is the full text of the speech she made:

Mr. Speaker, I was appalled by the words of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid last week asking Senators to vote for job killing fuel economy standards for cars by asking them to, "speak for the American people, not for the three car companies that are closing plants and laying off people."

The last time I looked, over one million

people directly work for the Big 3 are Americans.

The millions of others whose jobs are supported by the Big 3 are also Americans.

And Mr. Speaker, if Senator Reid has his way, hundreds of thousands more may be facing the unemployment line.

Everyone knows that the highest producers of CO2 are electricity producers, but I didn't hear Senator Reid volunteer to make the neon blazing casino's in his home state of Nevada more energy efficient.

How about regulate their consumption?

Let's hope that leaders in the House understand that millions of American workers jobs are worth protecting and don't follow the Senate's lead in the attempt to destroy them.

Rep. Miller Visits the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Rep. Miller meets and discusses Thumb Area weather with Meteorologist in Charge Richard Wagenmaker at the National Weather Service Office in White Lake, MI.

Congresswoman Miller recently had the opportunity to tour the National Weather Service office in White Lake, which is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and learn about some of the weather services they provide, many of which are particularly relevant to the residents of Michigan's 10th district.

You can visit NOAA's National Weather Service Detroit/Pontiac page and get your local weather by going to <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dtx/>

For those who frequent the Great Lakes, the NOAA's National Buoy Center compiles comprehensive marine data so you can find out what real-time conditions are. Visit www.ndbc.noaa.gov/maps/EastGL.shtml and click on the buoys for info.

The National Weather Service supports a Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL), which conducts extensive research on the Great Lakes and its coastal environments. You can visit their website at www.glerl.noaa.gov/ to learn about their research and what they are forecasting for the future of the Lakes. They also provide real-time data on water levels, weather conditions, and information on ecosystems and aquatic life.

NOAA is involved in a valuable communications program to make our schools safer in emergency situations. Their Public Alert Radio System operates 24 hours a day to help schools react more quickly in the event of a terrorist threat, adverse weather, or any other emergency. To learn more about this program go to <http://public-alert-radio.nws.noaa.gov/>

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Washington Connection Weekly



This Month's Radio Addresses:

Getting the Iraqi Parliament to stand up
Protecting Children from the Internet
Extending Passport Requirements



Rep. Miller Recognizes Two 10th District Service Academy Grads

One of Congresswoman Miller's most important responsibilities is to nominate interested students for our U.S. Service Academies.

Since Congresswoman Miller came to office in 2003, she has recommended over 40 qualified students to the academies of their choice. This year she was proud to see her first class of nominees graduate.

If you or someone you know is interested in attending a U.S. Service Academy, you can contact our district office at 586-997-5010 to learn about the application process. More information is on our website at candicemiller.house.gov/



Rep. Miller meets with Lt. Mark Barnes of Harrison Township, who recently graduate from West Point



Rep. Miller and Lt. Kenneth Peterson, who hails from Clay Twp., and recently graduated from West Point.